

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 2, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claim 2 has been amended and claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-16 are pending in the application with claims 8-16 being withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have amended claim 2 to independent form, and claims 3-7 depend from allowable claim 2. Accordingly, the objection is overcome.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,111,632, issued to Tanuma et al. (hereafter "Tanuma") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,471,352, issued to Akahira. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because neither Tanuma nor Akahir, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. For example, Tanuma and Akahir fail to teach or suggest a method for forming an alignment layer of a liquid crystal display device "wherein the selective dropping of the alignment material onto the substrate comprises: performing a first positioning of the alignment material dropping unit at a first side of the stage; performing a second positioning of the alignment material dropping unit at a second side of the stage along a first direction; dropping a first alignment material onto the substrate along the first direction during the performing of the first and second positionings of the alignment material dropping unit; shifting the alignment material dropping unit by a distance h1 along a second direction perpendicular to the first direction; and dropping a second alignment material along the second direction" as recited in allowable independent claim 2 of the present application.

Because Tanuma and Akahira fail to teach or suggest this feature of allowable claim 2, claim 2 and its dependent claims 3-7 are allowable over any combination of Tanuma and Akahira. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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